

CITY OF ALAMEDA

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: John A. Russo
City Manager

Date: July 5, 2011

Re: Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit Two Grant Applications to Caltrans for the Cycle 3 Federal Safe Routes to School Program, and to Execute all Necessary Documents

BACKGROUND

Caltrans is soliciting applications for the Cycle 3 federal Safe Routes to School (SR2S) grant program. The purpose of the SR2S program is to: 1) enable and encourage students from kindergarten through eighth grade, including students with disabilities, to safely walk and bicycle to school; 2) make walking and bicycling to school a more appealing mode choice; and 3) facilitate the planning, design, and implementation of projects that will improve safety, environment, and the overall quality of life. Caltrans expects to award up to \$42M in projects for a two-year funding cycle pending approval of the new Federal Transportation Act. No local matching funds are required.

DISCUSSION

Staff proposes to submit the following grant applications for the following two projects:

1. **Infrastructure Improvements to the Gibbons Drive/Northwood Drive/Southwood Drive Intersection** – The intersection of Gibbons Drive/Northwood Drive/Southwood Drive is on the school route to Edison Elementary and Lincoln Middle Schools. Based on traffic analyses and community feedback, staff developed an infrastructure project to improve access through this intersection. The \$235,000 funding request will install landscaped and irrigated medians, stop controls, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pedestrian ramps to channelize traffic and improve pedestrian access.

Improvements to this intersection were discussed at two neighborhood meetings, as well additional meetings held with residents directly adjacent to the intersection. Initially, a traffic roundabout was proposed, but the estimated cost and lack of community consensus led to the development of a more traditional approach to handling traffic and pedestrian concerns. Should the City receive the SR2S grant, Public Works staff will continue to meet with residents to obtain input and feedback as part of the design process.

City Council
Agenda Item #5-H
07-05-11

- 2. Infrastructure Improvements to the Mecartney Road/Island Drive Intersection** – The intersection of Mecartney Road/Island Drive is on the school route to Amelia Earhart Elementary and Lincoln Middle Schools. Based on community concerns, input from the crossing guard for this intersection, traffic data and City Council direction, staff developed an infrastructure project to improve access through this intersection. The \$105,000 funding request will repair the uneven walking surfaces of the crosswalks for pedestrians and individuals with disabilities; remove the portions of the existing center medians that extend partially into the crosswalks; install a new bus landing area at the existing bus stop; enhance existing signage at the intersection; and realign the crosswalks for improved access to the pedestrian ramps.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated total cost for the two federal SR2S grant applications is \$340,000. These proposed projects would be fully funded by the federal SR2S grant monies, with no local matching funds are required. There is no impact to the General Fund.

MUNICIPAL CODE/POLICY DOCUMENT CROSS REFERENCE

This action does not affect the Alameda Municipal Code. The proposed projects support the following General Plan Transportation Element Objectives:

- Objective 4.1.1.b – Enhance pedestrian safety and mobility, particularly in high pedestrian use areas, applying methods consistent with the hierarchy classification of streets identified in 4.1.1.a.
- Objective 4.3.3 – Promote and encourage bicycling as a mode of transportation.
- Objective 4.4.8 – Work with the Alameda Unified School District to include transportation choice awareness in education in the schools.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In accordance with the California Environmental Act (CEQA), this project is Categorically Exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) Existing Facilities.

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

July 5, 2011
Page 3 of 3

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit two grant applications to Caltrans for the Cycle 3 federal SR2S program, and to execute all necessary documents.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

By,



Gail Payne
Transportation Coordinator

Approved as to funds and account,



Fred Marsh
Controller

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. _____

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT TWO GRANT APPLICATIONS TO CALTRANS FOR THE CYCLE 3 FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM, AND TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has allocated Cycle 3 federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funds for pedestrian and bicycle facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alameda is committed to encouraging students to bicycle and walk to school, and to provide facilities and programs that will encourage this behavior; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alameda wishes to apply to Caltrans for (1) \$235,000 for Infrastructure Improvements to the Gibbons Drive/Northwood Drive/Southwood Drive Intersection; and (2) \$105,000 for Infrastructure Improvements to the Mecartney Road/Island Drive Intersection; and

WHEREAS, federal SRTS funding guidelines do not require a local match.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alameda authorizes the filing of two applications with Caltrans for the allocation of Cycle 3 federal SRTS funds for the projects described above, and authorizes the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

* * * * *

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Alameda in regular meeting assembled on the 5th day of July, 2011, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said City this 6th day of July, 2011.

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
City of Alameda

**Resolution #5-H CC
07-05-11**

Approved as to Form

City Attorney